

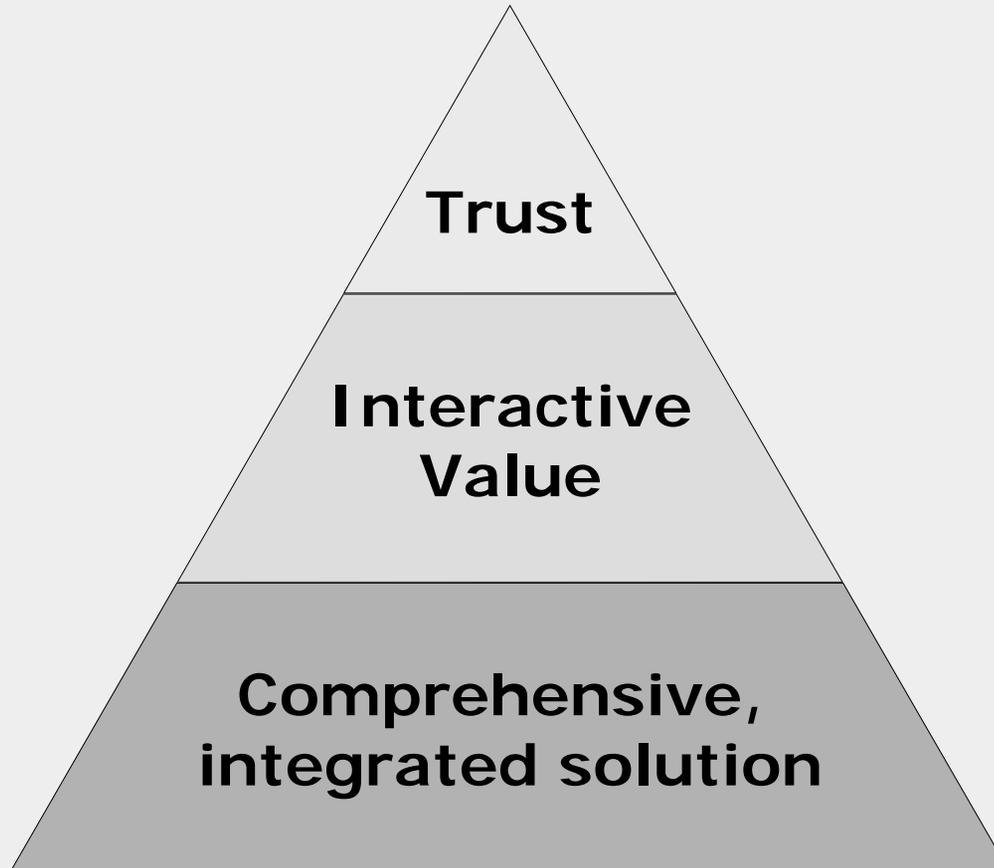
The Mission and Work of Overseas Vote Foundation



Susan Dzieduszycka-Suinat, Executive Director

Overseas Vote Foundation

U.S. Election Assistance Commission
Public Meeting, St. Louis Missouri





Our Mission

Facilitate and increase participation
of UOCAVA voters in federal elections

Background

- UOCAVA population is growing
- Eligible voters face persistent hurdles
- Many who try to register and vote are disenfranchised
- State-based system remains varied, and therefore, complex

UOCAVA Voter Registration Challenges

Geography – Distance – Time

Access to Information and Materials

Cost

**The same challenges felt
by both LEOs and UOCAVA voters**

UOCAVA Disenfranchisement Levels Federal Elections, 2004

19% of voters
received their
ballots after
November 2nd
or not at all

+

24% of voters
received their
ballots late—
in the last two
weeks of October

=

43% total
voters received
late ballots or
no ballot at all

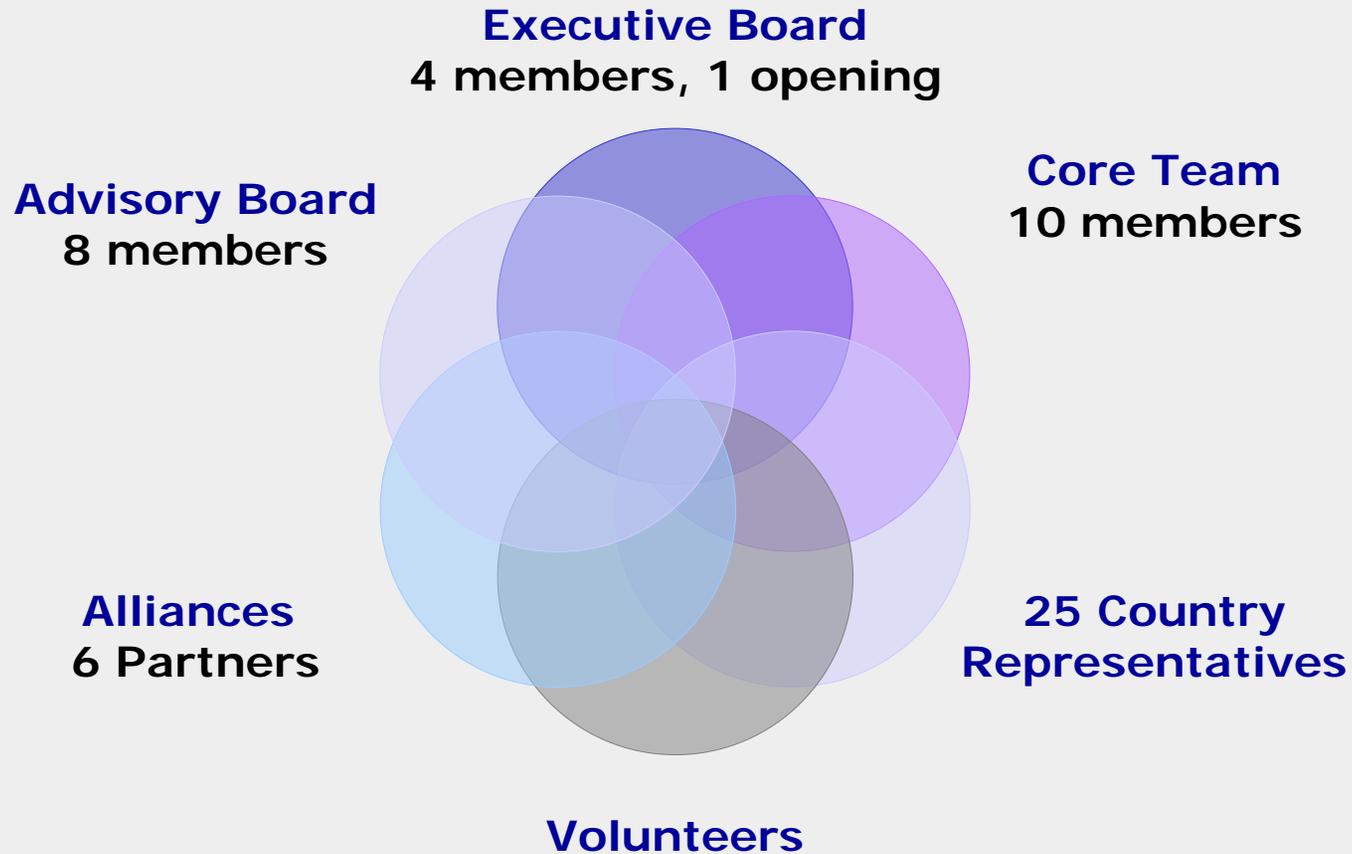
Source: OVF 2004 Post Election Research Report
<http://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/surveys/>

Our Organization

OVF is the First and Only...

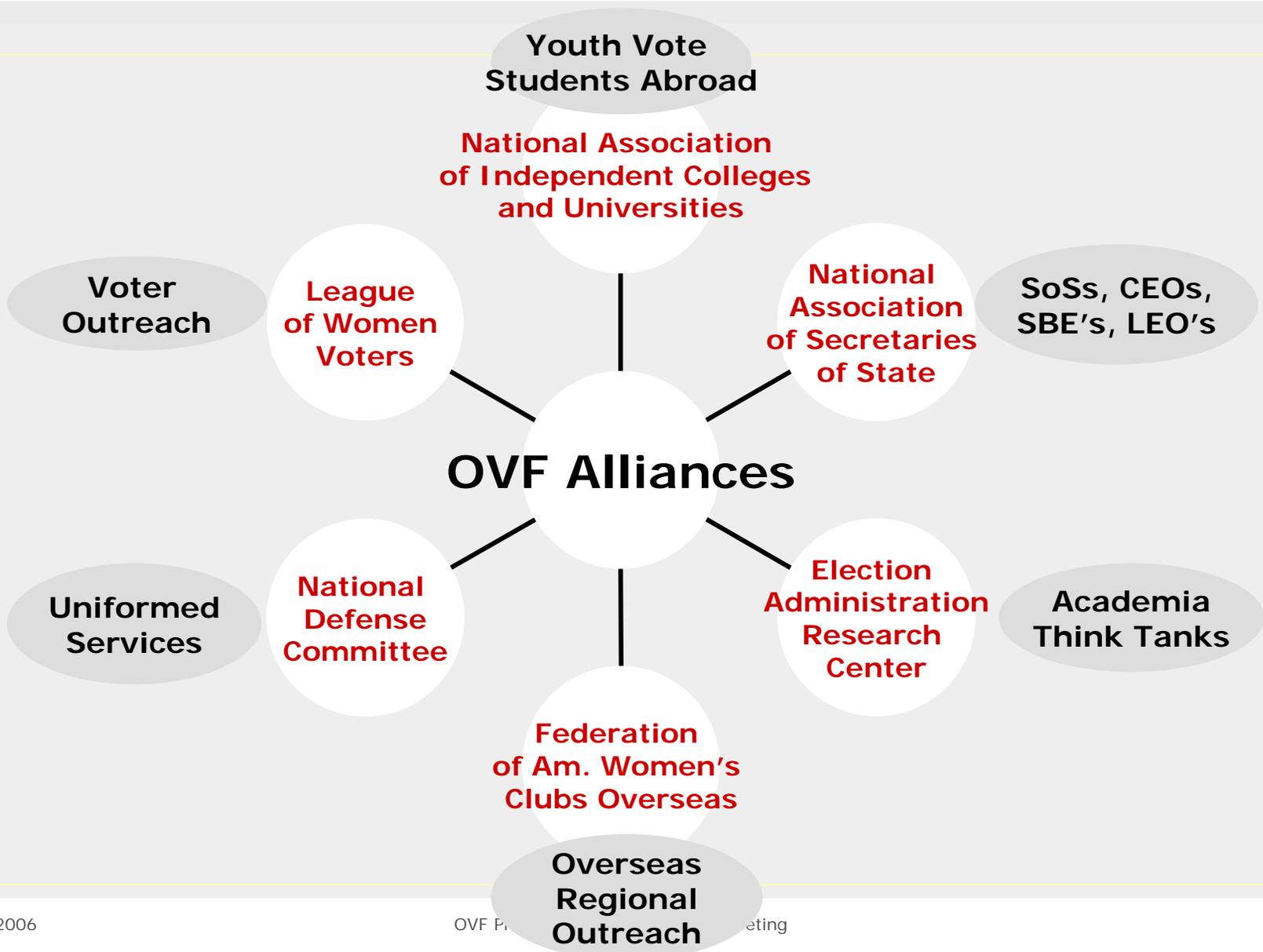
- 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity
 - Non-partisan
 - Non-political, non-party-affiliated
 - Non-governmental
 - Overseas volunteer-run
 - Professionally staffed
-organization doing work of this kind.

OVF Human Resource Structure





Overseas Vote Foundation Regional Outreach



Our Work



How We Achieve Our Mission

Provide free public access
to a complete integrated suite of innovative
Internet-based voter services

Interactive Services

- Voter Registration
- Election Official Directory
- Voter Help Desk

Complete, Integrated Program Solution

- Membership
- Outbound Comms
- Hot Topics/Voter Alerts

- Surveys and Research
- Registration Rates Reporting
- Aggregate Statistics

**Outreach and
Communications**

**Research
and Reporting**

OVF's Suite of Integrated Voter Services

RAVAsm

Launched February 2006
Announced February 2006

**ELECTION OFFICIAL
DIRECTORY**

Launched February 2006
Announced March 2006

VOTER HELP DESKsm

Launched February 2006
Announced April 2006



OVERSEAS VOTE FOUNDATION

OVERSEAS VOTE
FOUNDATION

★ REGISTER
TO VOTE

FIND YOUR
ELECTION OFFICIAL

VOTER
HELP DESK

★ ★ ★ MAKE A DONATION

RAVAsm 2006

REGISTER TO VOTE AND REQUEST YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT

For the U.S. General Election on Tuesday, November 7, 2006

RAVA is a wizard tool that will help you complete your official voter registration "FPCA" form. When finished, RAVA will prompt you to print a hard copy, or email the file for printing later. Instructions for mailing your FPCA form to your local election official, including the address, are provided.

Complete your registration form in ONLY 5 MINUTES –

- ★ ENTER your data
- ★ PRINT the completed form
- ★ SIGN and DATE
- ★ MAIL to the address provided

Choose One -

Voter Type:

- U.S. citizen living outside the U.S. either temporarily or indefinitely
- Active duty member of the U.S. Uniformed Services
- Spouse and family of active duty Uniformed Service member.

CLICK HERE TO START!

RAVAsm 2006

Introduction

- 1. Last U.S. Residence
- 2. Identification
- 3. Current Address
- 4. Contact Info
- 5. State Specific
- 6. Additional Info
- 7. Print, Sign & Mail
- 8. Finish

✓ VOTER HELP DESK

Tell-a-Friend 

OVF Election Official Directory (EOD)

- Most active service -- comprehensive, complete LEO contact information
- Value to multiple audiences
- Growing list of organizations linking to it – including LEOs
- Enables LEOs to provide local jurisdiction instructions
- Continuously updated - approximately 800 updated database records since launch
- LEOs involved in the data maintenance process
- Can be licensed at for branded use on other websites

ELECTION OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

Choose State and Region

[What's my Voting Region?](#)

State:

Voting Region:
County, Town, Parish, etc.

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Local Election Official (LEO) Information San Mateo County, California

[Click to update](#)

Local Elections Website: [Click to open San Mateo County elections website in another window](#)

LEO Mailing Address: Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder
40 Tower Road
San Mateo, CA 94402

LEO Physical Address: Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder
40 Tower Road
San Mateo, CA 94402

Local Election Official: Mr. Warren Slocum
LEO Phone: (650) 312-5222
LEO Fax: (650) 312-5348
LEO DSN Phone: none on record
LEO Email Address: registrar@smcare.org

Local Overseas Voting Contact: Ms. Narda M Garcia
LOVC Phone: (650) 312-5365
LOVC Fax: (650) 312-5348
LOVC Email Address: nqarcia@smcare.org

Further Instructions: Open M-F, 8:00-5:00
 "Am I Registered to Vote?"
 Check your voter registration status online at the Official Election Site of San Mateo

Your Email Address **GO!**

[more details...](#)
[update your profile...](#)

VOTER ALERTS

- Voting and Your U.S. Tax Status**
- Voter Identification: Get It Now**
- Determine Your U.S. Voting Residence**

[view more...](#)

HOT TOPICS

- **Election 2006: It's Sooner Than You Think**
- **Approach E-mail Voting with Caution**
- **Email Voting from Abroad to be Tested**

[view more...](#)

ALLIANCES

- **Election Administration Research Center**
- **Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas**
- **League of Women Voters**
- **National Association of Secretaries of State**
- **National Campus Voter Registration Project**
- **National Defense Committee**

[view more...](#)



National Association of Secretaries of State

Find Your Election Official

Close Window

Choose State and Region

State: Florida

Voting Region: --Select one--

County, Town, Parish, etc.

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- Select one--
- Alachua County
- Baker County
- Bay County
- Bradford County
- Brevard County
- Broward County**
- Callhoun County
- Charlotte County
- Citrus County
- Clay County
- Collier County
- Columbia County
- De Soto County
- Dixie County
- Duval County
- Escambia County
- Flagler County
- Franklin County
- Gadsden County

[What's my Voting Region?](#)

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Done

STEP 2: Locate Your Polling Place.

Next, you'll need to know where to go to cast your ballot. Many states, counties and cities offer online services that match your address to the correct voting location. Others simply list contact information for local election officials who you can contact to find out where your polling place is located. Just look for your place of residence in the drop down menu below, and click on the link to find out where you should go to vote.



OVERSEAS VOTE FOUNDATION

REGISTER TO VOTE

FIND YOUR ELECTION OFFICIAL

VOTER HELP DESK

MAKE A DONATION

VOTER HELP DESKsm

* denotes required fields

Question From:

First name: *

Last name: *

Allow mixed case last name (e.g. McNally)

Email address: *

State where you vote: *

Question Type:

Type: *

Your Question:

1024 chars. or less

Hi -

Can you help me out? I last lived in St. Louis 10 years ago and my residency isn't current. Does it need to be? I never voted while in the US. Can I still vote? If so, how do I register? And what if I'm not sure of my last address?

Thanks this great service! I found you on the "expatica" site,

Scott

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

GO!

[more details...](#)
[update your profile...](#)

VOTER ALERTS

V! Voting and Your U.S. Tax Status

V! Voter Identification: Get It Now

V! Determine Your U.S. Voting Residence

[view more...](#)

HOT TOPICS

- Election 2006: It's Sooner Than You Think
- Approach E-mail Voting with Caution
- Email Voting from Abroad to be Tested

[view more...](#)

ALLIANCES

- Election Administration Research Center
- Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas

Practical Approach

- Solves identified, yet persistent problems of UOCAVA voter registration
 - **Availability:** now everywhere over the Internet
 - **Simplicity:** online and user-friendly
 - **Accuracy:** error-checking, customized by state; features automatic address provision
 - **Legibility:** printed forms support improved documents for submission and record retention

Real Value in Real Time Reporting

- Site traffic can be misleading (2 million+ hits to date)
- What counts is
 - Actual usage/acceptance of the services
 - Growth rate of use of individual services
 - % completion rate of registration program
- Descriptive data gathering
 - States in which voters are registering
 - Countries in which they live
 - Types of voters using the site

| Top 10 States | <u>Percent</u> |
|---------------|----------------|
| CA | 14.95 |
| NY | 14.56 |
| TX | 5.49 |
| PA | 4.86 |
| FL | 4.61 |
| IL | 4.61 |
| MA | 4.46 |
| NJ | 4.34 |
| MI | 2.87 |
| OH | 2.84 |

Percentage of citizens requesting absentee ballots by state.

Ranking has remained consistent throughout the 2006 registration period.

Distribution of Voter Registrations by Country of Residence

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Canada | 18.80 |
| United Kingdom | 12.83 |
| Germany | 6.97 |
| Australia | 5.66 |
| France | 5.28 |
| Switzerland | 3.58 |
| Uniformed Services | 3.33 |
| Italy | 3.07 |
| Japan | 2.91 |
| Israel | 2.74 |

Distribution of OVF Site Users

| <u>Voter Type</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Civilian | 96.2 |
| Service members | 3.26 |
| Service member family | 0.51 |

September: current hits coming in from US Uniformed Services make it second to Canada

Surveys and Research

- Commitment to post election surveys, analysis of voter trends, in-depth understanding of real voter issues, and recommendations
- 2004 Post Election Survey: Published online: June 2005
 - Sent to 64,000 overseas voters
 - 17% response rate
 - 11,000 respondents
- 2006 Post Election Survey:
 - Collaborative project with the UC Berkeley Election Administration Research Center

Nonpartisan Voter Outreach

- Communications program
- Regional Representatives
- Youth Vote: University study abroad programs
 - Individual Universities
 - American Democracy Project (ADP)
 - National Campus Voter Registration Project (NCVRP)
- Election-related organizations – domestic and international



Shape The Future. Vote!

Official Election Site of San Mateo County



Warren Slocum Chief Election Officer & Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder

April 4, 2006

Search

??
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| Home | Voter Registration | Absentee Voting | Candidates & Measures | Elections | Poll Workers | Links | How to Contact Us |
|------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------------|-------|-------------------|

☆ California ☆ Gubernatorial Primary Election June 6, 2006

It's Official -- They're Running!

The Candidate Roster lists the people who filed their nomination papers to run in the June Primary in San Mateo County by party and office.

[What statewide propositions and initiatives have qualified for the June Primary?](#)

[Who's running for statewide office in the June primary?](#)

Local Measures for June 6th Primary Election

- ◆ Cabrillo Unified School District Parcel Tax - Measure S
- ◆ Menlo Park City School District Bond - Measure U

Review the format and procedures for submitting arguments for and against local measures. The deadline for submitting arguments is 5:00pm Friday, March 17, 2006.

What's on the Ballot?

Review the races scheduled for the June primary

- ◆ Federal Offices
- ◆ State Offices
- ◆ Countywide Offices
- ◆ Central Committee Offices
- ◆ Local Measures
- ◆ Statewide Measures

Colma Special Election - April 11th

Town of Colma Municipal Special Election

April 11, 2006

Attention Colma Voters: Learn more about [Measure R: Expansion of Gambling](#)

Voter Registration

If you're 18, a citizen and care about America - [Register to vote today.](#)



Overseas Voting

Overseas American citizens, State Department employees, and active duty uniformed service members and their accompanying families within and outside of the United States can register to vote using RAVA. [Register Today!](#)



Simplify Your Life -- Vote By Mail

It's easy, it's convenient and anyone can Vote by Mail. [Simply sign up here.](#)



Featured Site:
San Mateo County,
California

HOME page
<http://www.shapethefuture.org/default.asp>



- NEWS/HOME**
- EDITORIALS**
- ENTERTAINMENT**
- VALLARTA LIVING**
- WHY VALLARTA?
- LOCAL PROFILES
- VALLARTA ART TALK
- COMMUNITY SERVICES
- HOME & REAL ESTATE
- RESORT LIFESTYLES
- VALLARTA WEDDINGS
- SHOP UNTIL YOU DROP
- PHOTO GALLERIES
- 101 HOTTEST FOR 2006
- PV REAL ESTATE**
- TRAVEL / OUTDOORS**
- HEALTH / BEAUTY**
- SPORTS**
- DAZED & CONFUSED**
- PHOTOGRAPHY**
- CLASSIFIEDS**
- READERS CORNER**
- BANDERAS NEWS TEAM**

Vallarta Living | Community Services

RAVA: US Overseas Voter Mini-FAQ

PVNN
Click here for OVF's Latest Newsletter

The US Midterm Election is nearing: September 1st you'll only have about 38 days left for your completed overseas voter registration form to arrive in your jurisdiction, as most states require your overseas voter registration form 30 days in advance of Election Day. If you haven't done it yet, register and request your absentee ballot now!

Let's not let a simple question stand between you and voting this year. Here are the Top 10 Frequently Asked Questions that we receive from voters like you.

1. What is the registration deadline in my state?
Check OVF's state-by-state listing of 2006 VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES. The list gives the day by which your completed form must arrive. ★ [Click here](#)
2. How do I register to vote from overseas?
Go to RAVA - Registration and Absentee Voter Application - provided online by the nonpartisan, nonprofit Overseas Vote Foundation. ★ [Click here](#)
3. How long can I wait to register from overseas?
Don't delay! Overseas registrations often need more time for processing. Remember, your ballot must be sent to you in time for you to complete and return it. Build in some buffer time.
4. How do I confirm that I am still registered to vote?
Go to the OVF ELECTION OFFICIAL DIRECTORY lookup service. Call or email your local election office back in your hometown to request a confirmation. ★ [Click here](#)



RAVASM

**Online.
Easy.
NonPartisan.
Secure.
Private.
Fast.**

Is there an open question between you and registering to vote?

Get the answer here:




Free Newsletter!

Voter Trust

- Essential component to electoral participation
- Trust indicators
 - Usage of our services
 - Membership
 - Donations
 - Survey response
 - Volunteer recruitment

Funding Sources

- In excess of 40,000 hours of volunteer time
- At least 500+ pro bono professional service hours
- Approximately 1,000 private philanthropic donations
- Foundation support including Google Ad Grant
- Continuing to pursue additional public, private and foundation support
- Earned-income strategy through licensing

**As we Americans are working to take democracy
to other parts of the world, let's also
take democracy to Americans
throughout the world.**

**Showing an example is the best way
to make democracy work.**